

Wisconsin Elk Capture Effort Complete in Kentucky

The 2015 capture phase of Wisconsin's elk reintroduction effort is now complete, with 28 elk awaiting transport to a new home in Jackson County.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources staff spent roughly four weeks working cooperatively with Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and other key partners to capture elk in eastern Kentucky.

In this first year of elk trapping, Wisconsin staff has laid a solid foundation for future capture efforts. Collaboration between Wisconsin and Kentucky created a great opportunity to learn from one another regarding elk management and trapping techniques.

"Staff from both states were very aware that this project is funded as a result of support from partner organizations, and we made every effort to run a cost efficient program," said Mike Zeckmeister, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Northern District Wildlife Supervisor and elk trapping team leader.

Captured elk are currently being held in a 4-acre pen in Kentucky, where they will be closely monitored and receive daily care. They will undergo a stringent 120-day quarantine and health testing period, which will include an acclimation period in Wisconsin, before being released in and around the Black River State Forest in Jackson County. Barring any unforeseen problems or health testing issues, release should occur in early June.

This is a multi-year effort, with an overall goal of bringing up to 150 elk from Kentucky. As many as 75 elk will help start a new elk herd in Jackson County, while remaining elk will help bolster the current elk herd near Clam Lake.

Those interested in receiving email updates regarding elk in Wisconsin can sign up to receive brief updates and other information. Visit dnr.wi.gov and click on the email icon near the bottom of the page for "[subscribe for updates for DNR topics](#)," then follow the prompts and select the "Elk in Wisconsin" distribution list.

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